

**Youngs Creek /Indian Creek Watershed Projects**  
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## Watershed Connections

A quarterly newsletter dedicated to the activities of the Youngs Creek and Indian Creek Watershed Projects

March, 2008

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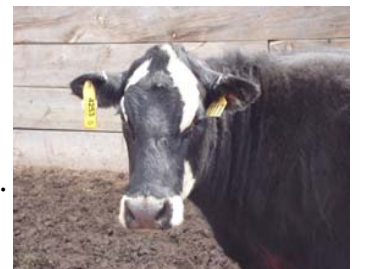
Steering Committee

Advisory Group

Ag Days

## Emerging Technologies in Agriculture Field Day

The Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Youngs Creek and Indian Creek Watershed Projects are sponsoring a field day at Scott Hall, at the Johnson County Fair Grounds, March 19, 2008. The field day will begin at 10:00 am.



The purpose of the Emerging Technologies in Agriculture Field Day is to allow the agriculture community to connect with the newest technologies available and to understand how they can improve the efficiency and profitability of farming. Adopting new technologies can result in more widespread use of Best Management Practices (BMPs), conserving natural resources and ensuring sustainability for future generations.

Technologies to be showcased: Auto Steer, Radio-Frequency ID (RFID), Ultrasound Technology, Variable Rate Technology (VRT), Real Time Kinematic (RTK), Yield Monitors, Record Keeping Software, Guidance Systems, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Conservation Engineering.

Scheduled to attend are: Purdue University, Jacobi Sales (CNH), Precision Partners (Ag Leader, Trimble), Agro Chem, NRCS, Farm Works, MacAllister Machinery (Caterpillar), Indy Tractor (John Deere), and Kova Fertilizer (Outback). Each company will be presenting information about the technology that they sell. Included will be field demonstrations of some of the equipment.



Purdue University is scheduled to demonstrate RFID tags and ultrasound for carcass quality for livestock.

A free buffet lunch is included and an RSVP is required by March 14, 2008. The lunch is being sponsored by Johnson County Beef Cattle Association and Johnson County Farm Bureau, Inc.

For more information or to RSVP contact Andy Nichols, Ag Programs Specialist, or David Harrell, Conservation Resource Specialist, Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District, (317) 346-6102, or go online at [www.swcd.org](http://www.swcd.org)



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ March 10th Indian Creek Watershed Steering Committee Meeting at the Painted Hills Clubhouse
- ◆ March 19th 10:00am Emerging Technologies Field Day RSVP 317-346-6102 ext.103
- ◆ March 19th 7:00am Ag Week Breakfast, Scott Hall for more information and to RSVP please call 317-736-3724

Please refer to our website [www.swcd.org/watershed.htm](http://www.swcd.org/watershed.htm) or call the office for more information on future events.



## Cost-share Update

Cost-share payments for the Youngs Creek Watershed continue to be awarded. We are still actively seeking applications for projects. To date, the following have been applied for: pasture & hayland seeding, no-till, cover crops, Grid mapping/VRT, heavy use pads, riparian area development, and an educational demo site. If you have interest in doing a cost-share project, please refer to our website for more details on the program or contact David Harrell at 317-346-6102 ext. 106. The cost-share program was revised at the Youngs Creek Advisory group meeting on February 21st. For more information on the revised cost-share program, please see our website or contact David Harrell 317-346-6102 ext. 106 david-harrell@iaswcd.org

## Johnson County Ag Days

The watershed and the SWCD staff will be participating in the Johnson County Ag Days on March 13-14 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. Ag Days target the 4th graders of the county to educate them about agriculture and where their food comes from. There are expected to be 1,200 students attending. Check the next newsletter for pictures and results from the Ag Days.

## Farmers Breakfast

The Purdue Cooperative Extension Office in Johnson County is sponsoring the annual farmers breakfast. This will be at Scott Hall March 19, 2008, starting at 7:30am. The featured speaker this year will be Dr. Bruce Erickson from Purdue University. He will be speaking about "When does technology pay?" Highlighted will be a presentation on what the new technologies are and how they can be used. He will emphasize that there is an economic threshold to implementing new technology and that agriculture producers should not always use it just because it is new. The cost of the breakfast is \$1.00 which represents the farmers share of the cost of the breakfast.

This will be held at Scott Hall on the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The breakfast will end about 9:00 am. To RSVP please call the Johnson County Extension Office at 317-736-3724

The Emerging Technologies in Agriculture field day will follow this event at 10:00am. More information is on page 1.

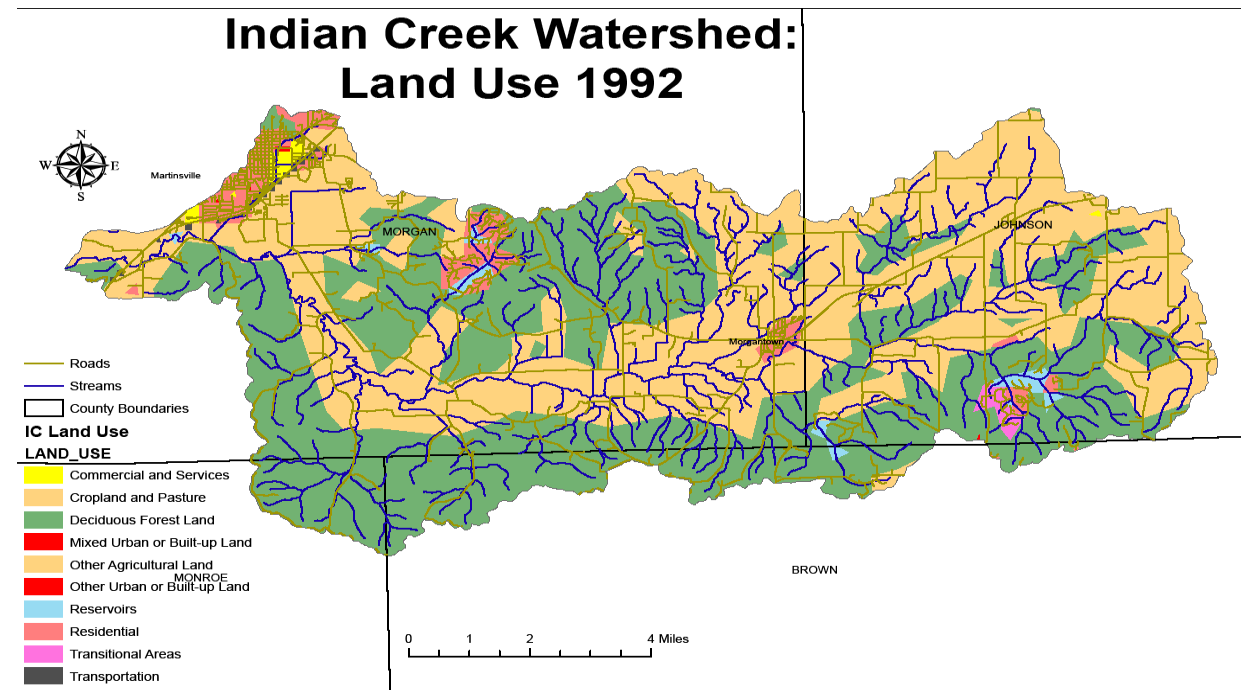
## New SAFE Program

The Farm Service Agency released a new program for wildlife habitat improvement. This program is part of the Cropland Reserve Program (CRP). It is administered similarly to other CRP programs with the exception of the contract lengths being longer. For more information see the related article in the SWCD district newsletter or our website [www.swcd.org](http://www.swcd.org).

## Indian Creek Watershed Update

January saw the submission of the second draft of the Indian Creek Watershed Management Plan. Thus far, the Plan has introduced and described the watershed in terms of physical boundary, soil types, geology, hydrology, land uses, and demographics. An important part of describing the watershed is by using maps to locate the various characteristics. The Steering Committee has also used the maps extensively to analyze connections between water quality concerns and land uses or physical characteristics. The map below is one created to describe the distribution of various land uses in the watershed in 1992. By comparing historic land uses with current land uses, the Steering Committee and community planners are able to determine the best land uses for the future to address water quality concerns.

Maps were also a primary feature of our displays at the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts on January 15th and the Johnson County SWCD Annual Meeting on January 30th. Maps help tell the story of the watershed and help determine the direction we want to go to protect water and land resources. As part of our grant funding, we will continue to develop additional GIS maps to further describe the watershed. Anyone interested in obtaining maps or layers used to create our maps should contact Debra Ashack, Watershed Coordinator at 317/346-6102, or 317-878-4064, ext. 105 from the Martinsville area or by e-mail at [debra-ashack@iaswcd.org](mailto:debra-ashack@iaswcd.org).



## Advisory Group Meeting

The Youngs Creek advisory group met February 21, 2008, at the Johnson County SWCD office. There was discussion about possible revisions to the cost-share program. The result of the meeting was to increase the amount of Educational Demonstration Sites from a \$5,000 limit to a \$10,000 limit. There was also an allowance for monies for engineering implemented. For more details about the revised cost-share program please see our website or contact the Watershed staff.